

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

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In the Matter of:

OGDEN, AR, 71853  
Post Office State Zip Code

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Docket No: A2012-31

RESIDENTS and CUSTOMERS of the OGDEN, AR POST OFFICE, Petitioners(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the OGDEN, AR, post office. The Final Determination was posted September 29, 2011.  
(date)
2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.
3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instruction for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

THE FACTS IN THE POSTAL SERVICE'S FINAL DETERMINATION ARE TRUE, BUT THEY DO NOT PROVE WHAT THE POSTAL SERVICE SAYS THEY PROVE. ALSO, THE FACTS RELIED ON BY THE POSTAL SERVICE HAVE NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. To summarize the Post Office's statements in their final determinations, the Postal Service stated that, in their opinion based on their findings, the closure would not be a disadvantage to customers. That statement is simply NOT TRUE and not all facts have been established by the Postal Service. Some of these facts are listed below:

**LOCATION AND TRAVEL FOR POST OFFICE SERVICES:** The Postal Service stated that Ogden would be served by the Ashdown Post Office which is about 8 highway miles away, but many postal customers live much further than that, possibly 12 to 15 miles or more. The Town of Ogden is made up mainly of senior citizens and it would be too far, too dangerous and too expensive to drive to Ashdown on a daily basis.

**SERVICES THROUGH INTERNET OR ROUTE CARRIER:** The Postal Service claimed that customers may be served through the internet or route carrier. Ogden is a rural community and does NOT have high speed internet services. Many customers do NOT even have a computer. The customers that do have computers must rely on dial-up connections. A few have satellite connections which is not very reliable because of bad weather or tree interference. It is not convenient nor always possible for customers to get postal services online.

Also, it is NOT convenient to meet the route carrier for various postal services. I realize that some mail transactions do not require meeting the route carrier, but some do. Some postal boxes are not located in front of houses, but are located on highways or roads and cannot be seen by the customer if you should need to meet the route carrier. Route carriers do not have a consistent time to each delivery box.

**ALTERNATIVES TO CLOSURE:** The Postal Service did not even try to negotiate with the community that would make services convenient for customers such as REDUCED HOURS of operation. Also the Town of Ogden could possibly help with financial expenses such as lease payments, utilities, lawn services, etc. in exchange for continued service.

The Postal Service also stated that on a route, customers would have 24 hour access to their mail. We already have that through the Post Office Building as the lobby is open 24 hours per day and box holders can access their mail.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON BOX HOLDERS:** Driving to Ashdown would be expensive for current box holders. The box holder would not have to pay a post office fee, but a box and post would have to be purchased, and if they opt for mail security, a locked postal box would cost even more. Box holders have mail security now with keys to their boxes inside Post Office Building 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

**FINANCIAL COSTS:** The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$52,319 by closing the Ogden Post Office. The Post Office lease is still in effect for about 2 more years and will have to be bought out. Also Ogden has 184 box holder customers. Most of these will not drive to Ashdown on a daily basis to pick up mail, they will opt for a box near home. The \$52,319 does not indicate the added expense of paying car mileage and upkeep, nor the cost of paying the route carrier to deliver to at least 150 of the 184 box holders. There will be increased costs to the Ashdown Post Office. Ogden is on a route which is already overburdened and the absorption of deliveries in Ogden area could very well necessitate the hiring of another carrier which would cost the Postal Service as much or more than filling the vacant postmaster position at Ogden.

**MAXIMUM LEVEL OF SERVICE:** In discussing the Ogden Post Office closure with Senators and Representatives, the Postal Service is required to deliver a "maximum level of service" to a community. The closure of the Ogden Post Office is NOT delivering the maximum level of service to the Town of Ogden and surrounding area as listed in the above statements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Residents and Customers of Ogden AR Post Office

Date: November 16, 2011